

LIV.—Description of a new Species of the Genus *Malurus*.

By JOHN GOULD, Esq., F.R.S. &c.

Malurus hypoleucus, Gould.

Crown of the head and all the upper surface dull indigo-blue, somewhat brightest on the head; ear-coverts azure blue; lores and a narrow ring around each eye white; wings nearly uniform brown, with a slight tinge of dull blue at the base of the primaries; under surface white from the chin to the vent, with a wash of fawn-colour on the flanks; tail similar in form and colouring to that of *M. cyaneus*, all the feathers being blue, except the outer web of the external feather and the tips of all of them, the extent of the white on the tips diminishing as the feathers approach the central ones; bill black; legs light brown.

Total length $4\frac{5}{8}$ inches; bill $\frac{7}{16}$, wing $1\frac{7}{8}$, tail $2\frac{1}{4}$, tarsi $\frac{5}{8}$.

Habitat. Supposed to be the Cape York district of Queensland, Australia.

Remark. This bird, which is a true *Malurus*, is easily distinguished from every other known species of the genus by the uniform dull blue colouring of the entire upper, and the equally uniform light hue of the under surface, which has suggested the specific name.

PROCEEDINGS OF LEARNED SOCIETIES.

ROYAL SOCIETY.

March 21, 1867.—Lieut.-General Sabine, President, in the Chair.

“On a remarkable Alteration of Appearance and Structure of the Human Hair.” By ERASMUS WILSON, F.R.S.

I have the honour of submitting to the Royal Society a specimen of human hair of very remarkable appearance. Every hair is brown and white in alternate bands, looking as if encircled with rings; and this change of aspect extends throughout the whole length of the hair, and gives to the general mass a curiously speckled character. The brown segment of the hair, which represents its normal colour, measures about $\frac{1}{30}$ of an inch in length, or something less than a quarter of a line; the white, or abnormal segment about half that length, namely $\frac{1}{60}$ of an inch; and the two together about $\frac{1}{15}$ of an inch, or one-third of a line.

The hair was taken from a lad aged seven years and a half, a gentleman's son; he is reported as being “an active, healthy boy, quick and intelligent.” He was delicate up to the age of four, having suffered in quick succession the diseases of childhood, a severe attack of croup, and several attacks of convulsions. The change in the appearance of the hair was first noticed when he was between two and three years old, and has increased perceptibly